1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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kept in the hut for that purpose. When the Indians catch the palometa fish (M. and S.: *trisu*), they return to the water with the bones and throw them in the same spot, believing that by so doing they will always be favored with good luck when fishing for palometa. In case a woman *enciente* eats this fish, however, it will not bite any more during that season.

HUNTING AND FIGHTING IMPLEMENTS

Weapons naturally play a great rôle among primitive people, for they are used to defend themselves against the wild animals of the forest as well as against their own kind, which is even more dangerous than the beasts of the jungle. Nowadays they are not used any longer in warfare, for the various tribes are at peace, but they still furnish the Indians with the means of procuring a large share of their food supply.

DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.—Defensive weapons have gone out of existence since intertribal wars have ceased, but in former days the Miskito employed round shields (*kabaika*) of light wood or of tapir hide. Armors of plaited reed are also reported; they were covered with jaguar skin and ornamented with feathers. The northern Miskito used a breastplate of twisted cotton like that of the Mexicans (Bancroft: I, 723).

BLOWGUN.—The blowpipe or blowgun is said to be still found among the Ulwa of Rio Escondido, but the present writer was unable to obtain any details pertaining to that arm. Lehmann (c: I, 503), however, gives the name *makar* (compare Bribri *mákol*) for the blowgun among the Ulwa of Rio Murra, a northern affluent of Rio Escondido. According to Bell (b: 232) the Indian children had little blowguns to blow little balls of black wax through, in order to kill wasps, butterflies, and small house lizards. They were made from a reed, called *brasirpi*, the joints of which are about 1½ feet in length.

The use of the blowgun as a hunting and fighting implement would necessarily point to an acquaintance with arrow poison. In fact, Benito Garret y Arlovi in a report from the year 1711 (Peralta, b: 59) states that some of the Miskito used arrow poison. Bancroft (I, 722–723) says that these Indians employed the juice of the manchineel tree (*Hippomane mancinella* L.) to poison arrows and darts, but he fails to indicate the source of his information. It is well known that the Chocó and Tule (Cuna, San Blas) Indians of Panama, like the Caribs of the Lesser Antilles, poisoned their arrows in former days by dipping them in the milky juice of that tree. I have not seen the tree in question on the Mosquito Coast, nor learned its native name; Ziock (69, 237), however, calls it *liwakumya* in the Miskito